



Currents

An e-newsletter from Chesterfield County, Va., government



Bond Referendum Questions on Ballot on Nov. 5

On Nov. 5, Chesterfield County voters will be asked to consider a bond referendum to provide for the renovations or replacements of 10 of the county's oldest schools, the addition of a new elementary school to ease overcrowded classrooms, and the replacement of the county's near-obsolete emergency communications system used by police, fire and emergency medical services and sheriff's deputies. To help pay for these public education and public safety projects, voters also will be asked to consider a meals tax of up to 2 percent.

Specifically, the referendum focuses on:

- Issuing bonds for \$304 million in school projects, including renovating or replacing 10 schools and building one new elementary school to ease overcrowding. The average age of the elementary schools on the project list is 62 years, and the average age of the middle schools is 47 years. The completion of these school projects also will contribute to the revitalization of neighborhoods as envisioned by the county's new comprehensive plan.
- Issuing bonds for \$49 million for an emergency communications system for police, fire, emergency medical and sheriff's personnel that would replace the existing, near-obsolete system. This vital system enables the coordination and dispatch of emergency personnel for a wide array of public safety needs.

Summer 2013

Board of Supervisors

Bermuda District

Dorothy Jaeckle
Chairman

Matoaca District

Steve A. Elswick
Vice Chairman

Midlothian District

Daniel A. Gecker

Dale District

James "Jim" Holland

- Seeking authority to establish a meals tax of up to 2 percent to help fund the public education and public safety capital projects referenced above. It is estimated that about 25 percent of the proposed meals tax would be paid by people visiting Chesterfield County.

Chesterfield County is making every effort to ensure that county residents, businesses and community organizations have as much information as possible before Election Day. County staff are available to meet with your group or organization to provide information about these very important issues.

To request and schedule a speaker, please call 804-748-1161 or email doughertyj@chesterfield.gov. Also visit YourVoiceFirstChoice.com for more information.

Countywide News

Denim Days

It's time to begin cleaning out your closets to support our public schools and PTAs! The fifth annual Whitten Brothers Great Denim Days will be held Aug. 21-Sept. 22. During the back-to-school shopping season, families are encouraged to go through their closets and collect unwanted denim jeans, jackets, skirts, shorts, etc., to donate to Goodwill Industries and benefit their favorite public schools. This event is produced by Chesterfield Towne Center. Denim is dropped off at the center's information desk near the food court. This year's goal is double last year's - to collect 20,000 denim items! Cash prizes totaling \$10,000 will be awarded to the PTAs of the top three elementary, middle and high schools that collect the largest numbers of denim items.



Dealing with long-term disaster

If a devastating tornado were to strike the Hull Street Road corridor and destroy thousands of homes, two schools, two fire stations, a library, scores of businesses, nine banks and more, how would we deal with the recovery that could take months or longer? On July 31, after seeing the devastation brought about by Hurricane Sandy and by Midwest tornadoes, representatives from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Dominion Virginia Power, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and county staff participated in a mock disaster exercise. They discussed the challenges, solutions, and what can be done now to be better prepared. Janet Clements of All Hazards Consortium was the keynote speaker.

New campaign effort targets drunk driving

From mid-August through Labor Day, local police will be out in force as part of the nationwide ["Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over"](http://DriveSoberorGetPulledOver.com) crackdown on drunken driving. This effort will include high-visibility enforcement throughout the county and is supported by paid advertising. The Chesterfield County Police Department will be aggressively looking for drunken drivers during this time and will arrest anyone caught driving drunk. During the 2011 Labor Day weekend, 138 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving drunk drivers. Of those fatalities, 83 percent occurred during early evening and overnight periods. Drunk driving takes a particularly heavy toll among young drivers aged 18 to 34. During the 2011 Labor Day weekend, 42 percent of those arrested in this age group were alcohol-impaired. For more information, visit TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov.

Clover Hill District

Art Warren

Board of Supervisors and District Meetings

Countywide News

Business News

Comprehensive Plan

County Calendar of Events

County Employment Opportunities

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Business News

Pocahontas Park adds bike trails

Pocahontas State Park will be adding 30 miles of bike trails that will please both local and international mountain bikers. The new trail system will become the 12th International Mountain Biking Association Ride Center. These destinations are known by bikers around the world as being the most rugged and challenging trails. The International Mountain Biking Association proposed the ride center at the park as an ongoing legacy project of the Richmond World Cycling Championships, which is coming to Richmond in 2015. The ride center is expected to be completed by May 2015, and also will include improvements to an existing 20 miles of trails at the park

with a total cost of \$1.2 million. A study done by Magnum Economic Consulting Inc. estimates that the trail improvements alone would increase annual economic activity in the county by \$2.7 million and by \$4.5 million in Virginia. They also would bring 31 jobs to the county and 51 to the state. The ride center also will feature hand-bike trails for the handicapped.

First Choice Business Awards announced

In August, the county announced the recipients of the [First Choice Business Awards](#). This annual award program recognizes companies that contribute to the county's economy and its residents, and is done in partnership with the Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce and the Chesterfield Business Council. The Board of Supervisors will recognize the winners at its Aug. 28 meeting. The Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center received the First Choice Business of the Year award, which recognizes a business that has been a leader in terms of overall impact to the county. Other 2013 First Choice Business Award winners are:

- Environmental Stewardship Award - B&D Chimney Services
- Community Impact Award - Haley Buick GMC
- Innovation Impact Award - Networking Technologies and Support
- Building Healthy Communities Award - HCA Virginia Workplace Wellness
- Small Business Excellence Award - Commonwealth Photography

Henricus Foundation receives grant

The Henricus Foundation recently announced that it received a \$100,000 donation to support the educational mission of Henricus Historical Park from the Dean Foundation, begun by the late sausage king and entertainer Jimmy Dean. Supporters of Henricus are challenged to match the gift with donations of \$5,000 or more. Henricus Historical Park is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that operates in partnership with the Henricus Foundation and the counties of Chesterfield and Henrico. Private philanthropy bridges the gap between county resources and what is needed to expand educational outreach to children, fund archeological projects, build new facilities and recruit and retain professional staff. Henricus is located on 32 acres along the James River and is surrounded by the 810-acre Dutch Gap Conservation Area.



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County Programs and Services

Ettrick Matoaca reopens

In June, the 37-year-old Ettrick-Matoaca Library reopened after an extensive renovation. The library now includes a small-business resource center, an expanded book collection, two outside reading gardens, and additional desktop computers and laptops. This is the second set of renovations for

the library, which officially opened in 1976. In the 2004 bond referendum, voters approved additional renovations to the facility. The renovations took about a year and a half to complete, during which time the library operated out of a trailer.

CDIS now being used

Seventeen Chesterfield County departments and two state agencies are now using the new Chesterfield Development Information System, or [CDIS](#), which was developed by the county's Community Development Division. This system, the only one of its kind in the region, has automated the zoning process so that customers can file zoning applications electronically, track the status of their cases online, and receive regular emails about their cases. CDIS also enables staff to view, review and track zoning cases through the public-hearing process. County planners began introducing customers to CDIS in May. CDIS also enables staff from multiple county departments and state agencies to access the case information in one place and perform all of these tasks online.

Children available for adoption through Virginia Adopts

Virginia Adopts is an initiative launched by Governor Bob McDonnell to match 1,000 children in foster care with 1,000 families. There are currently about 4,000 children in Virginia's foster care system. In the Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Department of Social Services there are numerous children ready for adoption. For more information, call Lindsay Britt at 804-717-6391. For information about the adoption initiative, visit [virginiaadopts](#) or call 800-Do-Adopt.

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Public Safety News

Disaster Survivor Day workshops to be held

Chesterfield County is among several Central Virginia jurisdictions holding special workshops on Saturday, Sep. 21, 9 a.m.-noon, to teach people how to be prepared for disasters. The Disaster Survivor Day workshops will be taught by local public-safety professionals and volunteers and are funded by the Central Virginia Urban Area Security Initiative. The workshop will be held at the Eanes-Pittman Public Safety Training Center, 6610 Public Safety Way. The workshop will focus on how to prepare for, and live safely through, disasters and other emergencies, including hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, blizzards and more. You must be registered to attend. For more information and to register, visit [survivoraday.com](#) or call 804-796-7159.

SAFE launches campaign

Medication abuse is a national epidemic, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Chesterfield County's percentage of teens abusing medications is higher than the national average, as indicated by the 2012 Community Youth Survey. The survey was conducted by Substance Abuse Free Environment Inc., or SAFE, Chesterfield County's substance abuse prevention coalition. Two-thirds of teens who abuse prescription medications get them from their families or friends. To help prevent unauthorized use of medications, SAFE, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health, has launched, "Lock Your Meds," a media-awareness campaign that encourages parents and grandparents to secure their medications in a locked container or cabinet, and to talk to their children about the importance of using medicines only as directed and the dangers of misuse. Visit [chesterfieldsafe.org](#) for more information.

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Things to do

Lincoln Exhibit

Chesterfield County Public Library's Central branch will host "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War," a national traveling exhibition, from Aug. 10-Sept. 18. The exhibit explores Lincoln's struggle to meet the constitutional challenges of the Civil War. The exhibition vividly evokes the president's struggle to resolve the United States' most basic national questions during a time of war: Was the U.S. truly one nation, or was it a confederacy of sovereign states? How could a country founded on the belief that "all men are created equal" tolerate slavery? Other programs include a Tuesday, Aug. 27, panel discussion about Lincoln in film, (7-8:30 p.m.); and a Saturday, Sept., 14 talk, (2-3:15 p.m.); by Virginia Historical Society's Andrew Talkov entitled "Who Freed the Slaves?" For more information, go to the [library's website](#) or call 804-748-1603.

Publick Days and Godspeed from Jamestown Settlement

Sept. 21-22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Eppington Heritage Day

Oct. 6, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mid-Lothian Mines Day

Oct. 19, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

[For more information about Things to Do click here.](#)

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